

Message Text

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ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 INR-05 PM-03 SAM-01 DPW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7528

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0997

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, WMO, SZ, VS, VN

SUBJECT: GOJ VIEWS ON PRG (PRG PROBLEM IN WMO)

REF: A. STATE 10509 B. TOKYO 0814 (NOTAL)

C. SAIGON 0769 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOJ RESPONSES TO EMBASSY DEMARCHES ON PRG
OBSERVER STATUS AT WMO SUGGEST THAT GOJ OPPOSITION TO PRG
REMAINS FIRM FOR TIME BEING. HOWEVER, POLICYMAKERS IN
FONOFF BEGINNING TO WONDER WHO LONG CURRENT POLICY TOWARD
PRG IN PARTICULAR AND INDOCHINA IN GENERAL WILL BE TENABLE.
CONCERN OVER SLACKENING US AID TO INDOCHINA, GVN DIFFICULTIES,
AND RISE IN PRG INTERNATIONAL STATUS CAUSING OFFICIALS TO
WEIGH ATTITUDES AND POLICIES TOWARD AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. USING INSTRUCTIONS (REF A) ON PRG ISSUE AT 7TH
WMO CONGRESS AS DEVICE TO PROBE FONOFF ATTITUDES TOWARD
PRG, EMBOFF MADE DEMARCHE TO UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
DIV DIR ICHIOKA JAN 22. COMMENTING THAT DECISION HAD NOT
YET BEEN MADE, ICHIOKA SAID GOJ POLICY OF OPPOSING PRG IN
INTERNATIONAL FORA WAS UNCHANGED AND THERE WAS NO CAUSE
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FOR CONCERN. WHEN DECISION REACHED IN FEW DAYS, HE WOULD

CONFIRM IT.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH FIRST SE ASIA DIV DIR HANABUSA, WELL KNOWN FOR SEMINAL ROLE IN GOJ INDOCHINA POLICY, SHAKIER ATTITUDES EMERGED. HANABUSA AT FIRST RESPONDED HE HAD NOT YET FOCUSSED ON PRG ISSUE AT WMO BUT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT HE WOULD OPPOSE AN INVITATION TO PRG AS AN OBSERVER SINCE THIS WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE PRG AS A GOVERNMENT AND ONLY OFFERED PRG A LESSER STATUS THAN GVN. HE ASSUMED GVN IS MEMBER OF WMO. HANABUSA SAID HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH AFTER FONOFF DISCUSSIONS.

3. EMBOFF REMONSTRATED STRONGLY, POINTING OUT VARIETY OF REASONS FOR WHICH USG FIRMLY OPPOSED ANY ACTION WHICH UNDERMINED GVN OR ENHANCED IN ANY WAY THE POSITION OF THE PRG. IN PROCESS, EMBOFF HANDED HANABUSA COPY OF USG JANUARY 12 NOTE PROTESTING DRV'S VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND MADE SAME POINTS VERBALLY.

4. IN ENSUING CONVERSATION, HANABUSA STRESSED SAME POINT SOCIAL DIVISION DIRECTOR MADE DURING DEMARCHE ON PRG INVITATION TO LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE (REF B) THAT US CONGRESSIONAL CUTS IN AID TO SVN THREATEN GVN. IN HIS ASSESSMENT, US PREOCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ILLS AND MORE LIBERAL 94TH CONGRESS WITH CLEAR DISTASTE FOR AID TO INDOCHINA WILL LEAD TO INCREASINGLY INADEQUATE AID TO SVN. IF CURRENT DOLLAR LEVELS ARE MAINTAINED, DESPITE DECLINE IN REAL VALUE, GOJ SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN AID TO GVN. HOWEVER, SUCCESSIVE ANNUAL REDUCTIONS BY US, WHICH HE ANTICIPATES, WOULD MAKE GOJ ASSISTANCE TO GVN MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT. MOREOVER, HE ADDED, DURING RECENT MEETING WITH SENATOR CLARK FROM IOWA, CLARK COMMENTED THAT US CONGRESS HOPED JAPAN WOULD NOT INCREASE AID TO GVN. IN ANY CASE, HANABUSA CONTINUED, JAPAN COULD NOT REPLACE US AS MAJOR BENEFACITOR TO GVN.

5. PERMISSION FOR PRG TO OPEN LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA COULD CAUSE MINOR PROBLEMS FOR FONOFF, ACCORDING TO HANABUSA, BUT GOJ WOULD NOT PERMIT PRG TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN JAPAN. HE ALSO NOTED FIRM POSITION GOJ HAS TAKEN
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IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV (SEPTTEL). ACKNOWLEDGING THAT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD AID TO INDOCHINA WERE A PROBLEM, EMBOFF REMINDED HANABUSA THAT THE ADMINISTRATION, AS OPPOSED TO CONGRESS, FIRMLY SUPPORTS GVN AND WOULD MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN NEEDED ASSISTANCE.

6. COMMENT: AS WE POINTED OUT IN REF B, US CONGRESSIONAL CUTS OF ASSISTANCE TO INDOCHINA AND GVN'S SET-BACKS

MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY, ARE AFFECTING ATTITUDES IN FONOFF TOWARD ITS OWN INDOCHINA POLICY. GOJ DOES NOT WANT TO BE LEFT ON LIMB AS MAJOR ECONOMIC SUPPORTER OF A COLLAPSING GVN. NOR DOES FONOFF WANT TO BE ISOLATED FROM EUROPE AND THIRD AND FOURTH WORLDS IN ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION TO PRG. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF US POLICY SHIFTS OR IS FORCED TO SHIFT BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. THUS IF CURRENT TRENDS CONTINUE IN INDOCHINA, WHILE JAPAN WILL PRESUMABLY RESPOND TO OUR DEMARCHES IN SUPPORT OF GVN FOR TIME BEING, IN LONGER RUN, DOMESTIC POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND RESULTANT ATTITUDES IN FONOFF WILL COMBINE TO ERODE SUPPORT FOR CURRENT INDOCHINA POLICIES.
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